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Public Service Commission of South Carolina

P.O. Box 11649

Columbia, SC 29211

Gentlemen:

Please accept this letter as notice of our complaint about Duke Energy's request for a 17% rate increase. This is a letter of protest regarding Docket No. 2011-271-E.

Before retirement, we were in business and understand the need to sell a product for more than its basic cost (particularly, even those costs which are well-managed). The unknown factor is whether Duke manages its costs efficiently. This is a realistic expectation of the consumer.

The projected cost of inflation should not approach 17% in the foreseeable future. Try limiting the increase to no more than 5%, and request Duke Energy to tighten its collective cost projections upon consideration of the present status of our economy.

Respectfully submitted,

H. Allan & Karen Rankin

77 Indian Hills Drive

Brevard. North Carolina 28712

RANKIN